THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MENKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that a number of children are engaged in the practice of begging. While no formal all India assessment has been undertaken by the Government to ascertain the total number of children engaged in begging, a number of State Government's and Union Territory Administrations have enacted their own legislations to prevent beggary and rehabilitate beggars. Under the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, a Central Act, also provisions exist for beggary prevention and for the care, protection and rehabilitation of children found begging. The different State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have established a country wide infrastructure to support implementation of the Act.

मानसिक विकलांग गृहों की स्थिति

1632. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के विभिन्न भागों में चल रहे मानसिक विकलांग गृहों की स्थिति की जांच करवाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 24 अगस्त, 1998 के राष्ट्रीय सहारा में "बेबसी में दुत्कारे गए, बेबसी में मारे गए" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो गत दो वर्षों के दौरान अवन्तिका मानसिक विकलांग गृह रोहिणी में कितनी मौतें हुई और कितने बीमार हुए; और

(ङ) उसके क्या कारण थे और सरकार द्वारा इस प्रकार की गलतियों के निराकरण के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) से (ङ) अपेक्षित सूचना सभी राज्य सरकारें/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से मंगाई गई है।

Plans to Spread Literacy among Women of Backward Classes

1633. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 3rd November, 1998 captioned "Ministries slug it out over literacy plan" of Rs. 250 crore intended to spread literacy among women of backward communities in the country;

(b) if so, the budgetary allocations made by Government for the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon year-wise and State-wise in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's solutions/attitude in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An allocation of Rs. 250 crore was made in B.E. 1997-98 for the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme, and this has been carried forward in B.E. 1998-99. No expenditure has been incurred out of the Budget allocation.

(c) and (b) The scheme is under process for obtaining final approval of Government for its various elements and for deciding on the Ministry/Department which should take up its implementation.

TSP in the Tribal Areas of Gujarat

1634. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the economic development in the tribal areas of Gujarat is being implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;